

# THE ASSIST LINE

December 2011

Editor: Marilou Niggemann

Volume 2, Issue 12



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Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday,

9:00—6:00 EST



WHERE "HELP" AND "HOPE" MEET  
BY: CHRISTALY ALBARRACIN

The Assistance Fund enjoys receiving heartwarming correspondence from all our patients, partners, and friends. We would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish to show our appreciation this holiday season by giving back. This year, The Assistance Fund held an employee food drive with Friends of The Assistance Fund.

Our food drive was a BIG success! We donated 100 nonperishable food items to Second Harvest Food Bank, an organization that distributes food and other grocery products to those in needs throughout Central Florida. Our contributions help provide meals for those less fortunate and raise awareness of the hunger issues affecting our nation.

In addition, we have also partnered with The Baby DJ fund, a charitable organization that allows less fortunate

## We collected 100 food items.



children to have a happier holiday season through donations of toys and other gifts. We are a drop-off location and are accepting unwrapped gifts. Our efforts to promote awareness about hunger and poverty make the issues visible to action.

The Assistance Fund is a leading example of an involved organization that partners

with agencies hosting positive activists in the local community. We hope that this holiday season you will be encouraged to follow in our footsteps and positively impact others. If you would like to donate to The Assistance Fund or learn more about our mission, please contact us [online](#) at or call us at (877) 245-4412.



The red ribbon is the 1st ever ribbon symbol.

around the world live in the world with HIV today. It's one of the most destructive pandemics of our time.

Two ways you can individually participate in World AIDS Day is by wearing a red ribbon and getting tested for HIV. Over 20% of infected people are unaware. By going to [hivtest.org](http://hivtest.org) you can find a testing center near you where you can receive a free test and results in less than an hour.

[WorldAIDSDay.org](http://WorldAIDSDay.org) also has suggestions for those who wish to go above and beyond in support of a worthy cause, like how to organize a successful bake sale, and a list of events you can attend in your city!

## WORLD AIDS DAY

BY: LIZ FARLEY

December 1, 2011 marks the 23rd annual World AIDS Day. It began in 1988 when two public information officers for the Global Program on AIDS at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland came up with the concept to increase awareness. It originally focused on children with AIDS, but has since expanded to recognize all affected.

World AIDS Day aims to unite people in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV, and to

commemorate those who have lost their lives to this illness.

"Getting to Zero" is the new theme launching this year, replacing "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise" which has been embraced since 2005. "Getting to Zero" encourages governments to bring all AIDS statistics to zero, from the number of deaths to the number of people not getting the treatment they need.

Up to 2015, this theme will be addressed with 15 specific goals outlined, including: universal access to antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV who are eligible for treatment and zero tolerance for gender-based violence and discrimination. Over 33 million people

## MEET ALIA ALLI, PATIENT ADVOCATE

**Why did you start working at The Assistance Fund?** The opportunity to join The Assistance Fund sort of crept up on me, as I was a recent graduate looking to make my debut in the workforce. I found my first week with The Assistance Fund to be far more than I anticipated.

In just the two months that I've been here, I have been given the chance to surround myself with some of the most talented and dedicated people in the field. With such a positive setting, I am able to leave work each day with a sense of self-fulfillment that I am working in a career that I am passionate about.

**What do you want readers to know about yourself and The Assistance Fund?** As a Patient Advocate, I may not know exactly how it feels to be diagnosed with a chronic disease, but I am very familiar with the feeling of being denied proper care because of a lack of resources. My parents are from a third world country that is well known in my family for its hospital slipups and unprincipled behaviors. In just a one year span, two considerably healthy members of my mom's family were admitted into the country's public hospitals for common illnesses. Both times, we were called only to hear about the poor care received.

Being in the United States gives residents access to latest medical advancements, and I think all our citizens should be given equal opportunity to participate in these life changing treatments. I, therefore, feel a sense of personal gratification each time I am able to provide a patient with access to affordable medication.

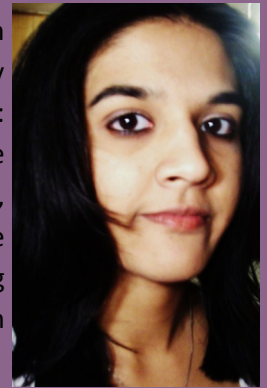
**What do you do in your free time?**

**What are your hobbies?** I like fast cars, loud music, and people who have a slightly different perception on life—I am not a wild child, but rather an extremely family oriented person who has been graced with a household of mostly male members who believe that life should be

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lived to its fullest potential. I am pursuing a higher level of education in Mental Health Counseling.

I also am adding to my bucket list: joining the peace corps, traveling the world, opening up my own orphanage, etc.



Alia Alli, Patient Advocate since 10/2011

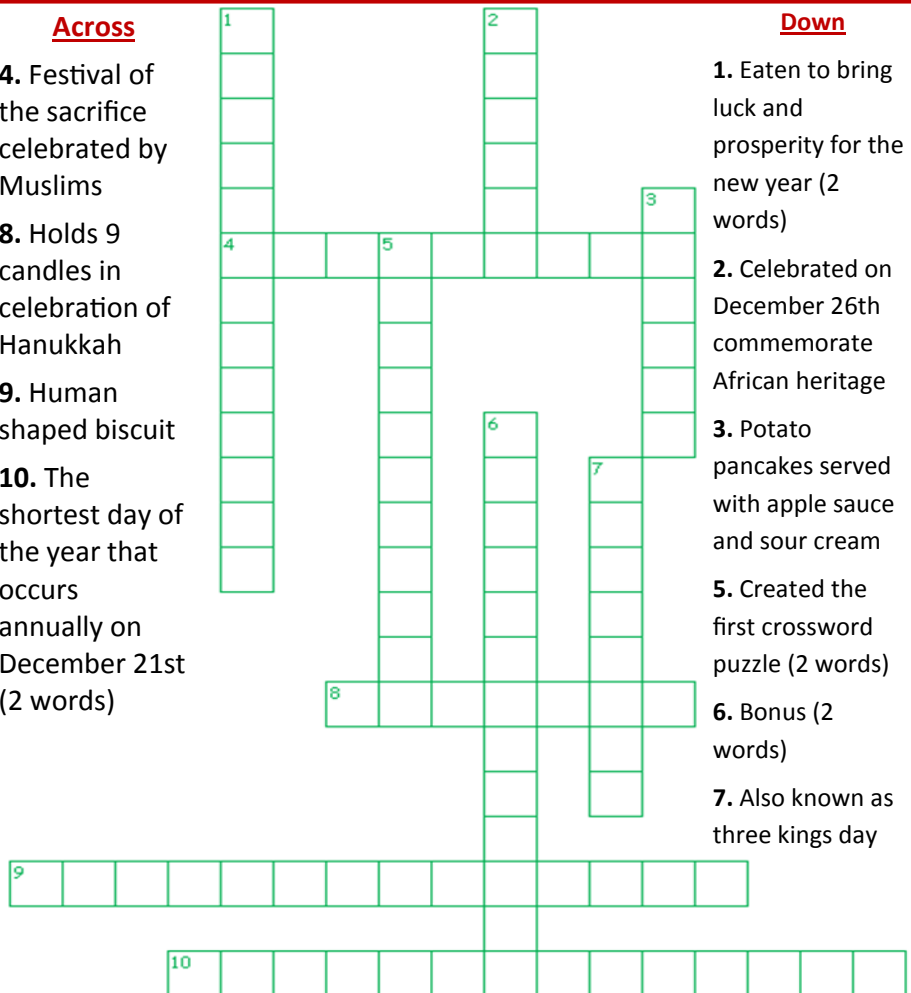
*Happy Holidays to all from The Assistance Fund!*

### Across

4. Festival of the sacrifice celebrated by Muslims
8. Holds 9 candles in celebration of Hanukkah
9. Human shaped biscuit
10. The shortest day of the year that occurs annually on December 21st (2 words)

### Down

1. Eaten to bring luck and prosperity for the new year (2 words)
2. Celebrated on December 26th commemorate African heritage
3. Potato pancakes served with apple sauce and sour cream
5. Created the first crossword puzzle (2 words)
6. Bonus (2 words)
7. Also known as three kings day



Sources: [Puzzle Maker](#), [Info Please](#), [Crossword Tournament](#)

## MIX UP CROSSWORD BY: SHARON PENNANT

On December 21<sup>st</sup> 1913, the world's first crossword puzzle appeared in the *New York World* newspaper by Arthur Wynne, an English author.

Crossword puzzles of yesteryear were in fact diamond shaped and contained no internal black squares.

Enjoy this crossword puzzle inspired by cultural celebrations from around the world!

Answers  
Across—4. Eid al-Adha 8. Menorah 9. Gingerbreadman 10. Winter Solstice  
Down—1. Black-eyed Peas 2. Kwanza 3. Latkes 5. Arthur Wynne 6. Happy Holidays 7. Epiphany